

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims, for at least the reasons discussed herein.

I. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner withdrawing the objections, properly acknowledging foreign priority, and approving Applicant's proposed drawing corrections. Accordingly, formal drawings are attached herewith, to overcome the Draftsperson's objections as indicated on Form PTO-948.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection, and providing an initialed Form PTO-1449, indicating consideration of the references submitted in the June 1, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). With respect to the "X" reference, Applicant has been unable to obtain an English translation copy of this reference.

II. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 4 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter recited in the independent claims from which they depend. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

As shown in the foregoing amendments, the receiver of allowable claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1, and the receiving and adding steps of allowable claim 4 have been incorporated in to claim 3. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims recited allowable subject matter.

III. Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are novel

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 stand rejected due to alleged anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over the previously cited DeCiiutis reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art fails to disclose all of the claimed combinations of features, as required for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. For at least the reasons herein, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that DeCiiutis fails to disclose all of the claimed combinations of features. For example, but not by way of limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that DeCiiutis fails to disclose that a receiver adds a receive flag to a received signaling message, as recited in independent claims 1 and 3. Applicant notes that DeCiiutis does not disclose adding a receive flag to a received signaling message.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from independent claim 3, and claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims.

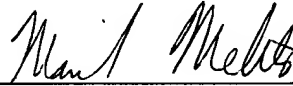
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/323,135

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Mainak H. Mehta
Registration No. 46,924

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A switch provided with a signaling coupler, the switch including an interpreter to produce a signaling configuration on receiving a predetermined character string corresponding to an order to send a signaling message, the signaling configuration depending on the signaling resources accessible to the coupler, said coupler including a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message.

2. (Twice amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler has [a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message,] a detector for recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch, and to process the message accordingly, and a translator for replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string if the switch is not itself the destination.

3. (Twice amended) A method of sending a signaling message by a switch, the method comprising the following steps:

a predetermined character string corresponding to a predetermined send order for said signaling message is added to said signaling message, said adding including receiving a signaling message in a receiving exchange and adding a receive flag thereto; and

said send order is interpreted in an interpreter of a switch to produce a signaling configuration of said switch, the signaling configuration depending on the signaling resources available to the switch.

4. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signaling message:

[a signaling message is received in a receiving exchange;

a receive flag is added thereto;]

the destination of said signaling message is tested; and

if a destination of the signaling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.